

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1844

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, UN, ET, SW, UK
SUBJ: ETHIOPIA TAKES HARD LINE ON NAMIBIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1845 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA)
PERMSEC MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA (APRIL 24-MAY 3) STATED THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD REJECT WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA. HE SAID ETHIOPIA'S POSITION WAS FOR THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS WHEREBY SWAPO LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA COULD DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE DESTINY.
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TINY WITHOUT IMPERIALIST INTERFERENCE. DAWIT WAS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF BRITISH, BLAMING UK FOR NEARLY ALL OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD AND AS LEADING IMPERIALIST COUNTRY ATTEMPTING TO SUBVERT AND THWART THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES' ENDEAVORS TO CREATE SOCIETIES FREE OF EXPLOITATION. DAWIT EXPRESSED ETHIOPIA'S DISMAY AT FAILURE OF MANY NON-

ALIGNED MOVEMENT STATES TO CONDEMN AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN KEEPING WITH NAM'S PRINCIPLES. (DAWIT WILL LEAD ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO MAY 6 MEETING IN KABUL.) ON THIS OCCASION, DAWIT AVOIDED DIRECT ATTACK ON US AND INSTEAD CHOSE TO PLACE MAJOR ONUS ON UK, PROVOKED AT LEAST IN PART BY UK NONSEC OWEN'S APRIL 5 SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

1. IN APRIL 20 NATIONWIDE AMHARIC TV AND RADIO INTERVIEW, SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED IN APRIL 23 ENGLISH "ETHIOPIAN HERALD," MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT RECOUNTED HISTORICAL RECORD ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA/NAMIBIA SINCE 1946 AND ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. HE TERMED WESTERN PROPOSALS "SUGAR-COATED MACHINATIONS OF IMPERIALISTS AND COLONIALISTS" AND DEVICE TO ESTABLISH PUPPET GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA TO ENABLE CONTINUED EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES AND CHEAP LABOR AND TO EXERT PRESSURE ON PROGRESSIVE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ANGOLA. DAWIT CLAIMED THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS ATTEMPT TO LEGITIMIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S ILLEGAL AUTHORITY BY REQUESTING THAT UN WORK WITH ADMIN-GEN FOR NAMIBIA APPINTEED BY SOUTH AFRICA. DAWIT SUGGESTED ETHIOPIA WOULD REJECT PROPOSALS BECAUSE THEY (A) DISREGARD COMPLETELY ROLE ACCORDED TO UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, THUS UNDERMINING UN DECISIONS, (B) ARE DESIGNED TO "CASTRATE" CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITANT AND LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE LED BY SWAPO, (C) CALL FOR RETENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OPPRESSIVE POLICE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER DURING ELECTION, WHICH IS "SUBTLE SCHEME TO INTIMIDATE ELECTORATE," AND (D) CALL FOR RETENTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS UNTIL ELECTION'S OUTCOME CONFIRMED, FURTHER CASTING DOUBT ON GENUINENESS AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE, "EVEN IF WESTERN PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTED BY UN, SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA."

2. DAWIT THEN LAUNCHED INTO STRONG ATTACK ON UK, ALLEGING THAT BRITAIN IS VANGUARD OF THOSE WESTERN COUNTRIES GIVING INCESSAND SUPPORT TO RHODESIAN LEADERSHIP, RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND WORKING AGAINST FULL UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. DAWIT SAID FONSEC OWEN'S APRIL 5 SPEECH WAS IN KEEPING WITH UK'S REACTIONARY AND COLONIALIST PAST AND REFLECTED BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S AND DR. OWEN'S "UNSWERVING AVERSION TOWARD ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION." STARTING WITH NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND IRELAND AS BRITISH-CREATED PROBLEMS, DAWIT RECITED LONG CATALOGUE OF BRITISH COLONIAL "CRIMES"

COMMITTED IN AFRICA, ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZING TERRITORIAL AND INTER-ETHNIC DISPUTES. HE CONCLUDED ATTACK BY VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNING "THE GOVERNMENT THAT HAD COMMITTED ATROCITIES AND INJUSTICES AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND GOOD PART OF WORLD AND STILL CONTINUES TO INDULGE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ETHIOPIA TO STIFLE OUR REVOLUTION."

3. COMPANION EDITORIAL IN APRIL 23 "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" ENTITLED "ANACHRONISTIC BRITISH GYPOCRISY" EXPANDS ON DAWIT'S ATTACK ON UK. OWEN'S SPEECH WAS CHARACTERIZED AS "AUTOMATED PERFORMANCE TO PLEASE HIS IMPERIALIST WAR-LORDS" AND REFLECTION OF "PROFOUND CONFUSION IN BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY." OWEN'S INSULTING REMARKS
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WERE "CLIMAX IN FRUSTRATION BY MAN WITH SEARING CONSCIENCE FOR ALL THE CRIMES PERPETRATED BY HIS COUNTRY AGAINST OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF WORLD." FINALLY, INCREASINGLY COMMONPLACE THREAT TO BREAK RELATIONS WAS REPEATED AGAIN IN CONTEXT OF INNUENDOES BY BRITISH LEADERS OF "SUCH SERIOUS PROPORTIONS AS TO RENDER CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS MEANINGLESS."
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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